

For 15 years, AVER has fought against this detrimental policy that requires gay and lesbian service members to deny who they are and to lie about their lives. Our democratic allies—from the United Kingdom to Israel—allow gay and lesbian soldiers to serve openly without any adverse effects on military preparedness or morale. This is the basic fairness and justice that AVER seeks for gay and lesbian American soldiers.

Madam Speaker, I also want to recognize Jim Darby, the founder of the Chicago Chapter of AVER and a Korean War veteran. Jim served in the Navy as a Russian-language specialist. Along with all the other AVER members, Jim has fought tirelessly to educate the general public and the Congress about the plight of LGBT veterans and active service members. What AVER seeks is what we should all seek: respect and honor for all those who have served and who are serving the United States of America through our Armed Forces.

STATEMENT ON H. RES. 1044 COMMEMORATING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ, A NAZI CONCENTRATION AND EXTERMINATION CAMP, HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST, AND EXPRESSING COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST BIGOTRY AND INTOLERANCE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today in support of H. Res. 1044 "Commemorating the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, a Nazi concentration and extermination camp, honoring the victims of the Holocaust, and expressing commitment to strengthen the fight against bigotry and intolerance."

I would like to begin by thanking my colleague Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for introducing this resolution in the House, as it is important that we never forget the horrible atrocities of the Holocaust and that we continue to fight against acts of genocide around the world as well as fight against bigotry and intolerance here at home in the U.S.

The Auschwitz concentration camp in present-day Poland was one of the most horrific Nazi extermination camps during World War II. The camp was initially established by the Nazis in 1940 as an army barracks but soon took on a new role as the Nazis began targeting specific groups of people including Jews, ethnic Poles, Romani, Soviet civilians, Soviet prisoners of war, people with disabilities, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and other political and religious groups.

Between 1940 and 1945 Auschwitz grew into the largest of the Nazi concentration camps in Europe, and consisted of three main camps in addition to 45 other satellite camps around the area.

During the Holocaust, more than 6 million Jews and other targeted groups were exterminated by the Nazis, and over 1 million of those killed in the Holocaust were murdered at Auschwitz.

As prisoners were taken into Auschwitz, they would pass through an infamous gate that read "Arbeit macht frei" or "Work makes free." This statement could not have been further from the truth however. The victims of Auschwitz were systematically exterminated in gas chambers while others were starved to death, tortured, and subjected to forced labor and horrific medical experiments.

On January 27, 1945, Soviet troops entered the Auschwitz concentration camp and liberated over 7,000 prisoners from the Nazis. Prior to the arrival of the allied Soviet troops however, many of the Nazis who were responsible for the horrible acts at Auschwitz escaped back into Germany, killing as many prisoners as they could in their escape.

Today we honor the victims of the Holocaust who were oppressed and killed by the Nazis at Auschwitz as well as those who were killed at the hands of the Nazis during World War II. Today we also stand with the other victims of genocide across the world and condemn the violent dictators and regimes that carry out these horrible and despicable actions.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the soldiers, sailors and airmen who fought against the Nazi tyranny during the Second World War and helped to liberate millions of prisoners from concentration camps across Europe. Because of the actions of these brave men and women, Europe is now a free and democratic society and the world is a much better place.

It is important that we never forget the horrible actions that took place during the Holocaust. Furthermore, I would also like to urge countries and leaders across the world to reassess their efforts in fighting racism, intolerance and anti-Semitism.

Through providing education and instruction to adults and children alike, we can help to ensure that what happened in Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration and extermination camps is never allowed to happen again.

I ask my colleagues for their support of this legislation as well as their support for victims of genocide across the world. I strongly urge you to support this resolution.

HONORING THE GLEN CARBON CENTENNIAL LIBRARY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Glen Carbon Centennial Library in Glen Carbon, Illinois, as it is recognized as the "Best Small Library in America."

The library's motto, "More than you expect," is more than just a saying for the 15 librarians serving the community of Glen Carbon. For them, it is a commitment to stop at nothing to ensure that library patrons get the service they need. As a testament to the community's appreciation of the Centennial Library staff's dedication, the number of visitors to the library has increased 33 percent since 2007.

Because of this dedication to service, Library Journal named Glen Carbon Centennial Library its "Best Small Library in America." The library staff has taken innovative approaches to addressing the needs of their pa-

trons. One example is the "No to Yes log," where the staff logs requests to which they had to say "No." Then, at staff meetings they determine how to turn a "No" into a "Yes" so that they can better serve the community. In the words of one of the "Best Small Library in America" judges, "Glen Carbon seems to be doing everything right."

It is because of their hard work and dedication, that the Glen Carbon Centennial Library earned this honor. I would like to congratulate director Anne Hughes, the management team, librarians and volunteers who have made the library into the award-winning institution that it is today and wish them continued success in the future.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3326—Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010:

Requesting Member: Rep. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Name and Address: FLIR Systems, Inc./Scientific Materials Corporation of 31948 East Frontage Road, Bozeman, MT 59715.

Description: \$4,000,000 in funding will be used to develop SOF Visual Augmentation System Hand Held Imager/Long Range, a thermal camera that allows special operations forces to conduct critical reconnaissance, surveillance, detection and recognition at safe and maximum ranges from positions of relative safety.

Requesting Member: Rep. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Name and Address: Blackfeet Nation of P.O. Box 850, Browning, Montana 59417

Description: \$3,200,000 in funding will be used to develop adaptive, lightweight materials associated with enhanced fabrication, production and manufacturing technologies that can respond to meet the unique needs for lighter weight and stronger components for its missiles, ground, air and space platforms and sensors.

Requesting Member: Rep. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Name and Address: MSE Technology Applications, Inc. of 200 Technology Way, Butte, MT 59701

Description: \$6,408,000 in funding will be used to develop a mobile cryoplasma demilitarization system that will freeze, crush and destroy obsolete and hazardous munitions in a safe, cost-effective, and environmentally acceptable process.

Requesting Member: Rep. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Name and Address: Federal Technology Group of 203 S. Enterprise Boulevard, Suite 4, Bozeman, MT 59718-6062

Description: \$2,400,000 in funding will be used to produce a superior thermal interface adhesive to enhance heat removal from LEDs.